

23 Nov. 65

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Project USEFUL

1. This memorandum requires action in the form of a determination as to the future of Project USEFUL. Recommendations are contained in paragraph 23 of the attached review. A decision should be reached by 10 December if, as we recommend, a one-week USEFUL course is to be scheduled for the period 18-22 April 1966. That the burden of decision in this matter rests with the DDP is reflected by the memorandum from OTR to the DDS, containing a statement of the position of the DDI and the DDS&T, dated 3 November 1965 (copy attached).

2. We should have liked to submit a shorter review of this project. However, the value we believe USEFUL has for the Clandestine Services, the investment made in it in past years, the potential it has for the future, the implications inherent in its termination, and the summary treatment accorded it elsewhere have combined to persuade us that it warranted a fuller airing. And having concluded that its value to CIA, and especially to the Clandestine Services, has been seriously underestimated, we have felt that such value could be most effectively illustrated through setting the first-hand experiences of CIA officers who, by virtue of their close relations with U. S. military representatives in the major commands, are able to speak knowledgeably and authoritatively.

3. In brief, we are convinced that the knowledge acquired by selected officers of all the services has contributed to a closer and more understanding relationship between the military establishment

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and the Clandestine Services today; that this is reflected in the friendly and cooperative attitude of USEFUL alumni scattered throughout the services; and that through this project CIA not only serves its own ends but contributes to the overriding national interest through facilitating the effective cooperation and close mutual support of CIA and the military which are of vital importance to the defense of the nation in peace no less than in war.

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[Redacted]
Chief, War Plans Staff

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2 Attachments

- a. Copy of Memo from OTR
- b. Review of Project USEFUL

The recommendations contained in paragraph 23 are approved:

Thomas H. Kavamezzines R/3/65
Assistant Deputy Director for Plans

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| | OTR USMC | |

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT

Memo from C/War Plans Staff to ADDP; Subj: Project USEFUL with 2 attachments. Memo from Director of Training and Staff Study: "Review of Project USEFUL."

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

The purpose of the Staff Study was to determine if Project USEFUL should be continued and if so, in what form. The study outlines the background of USEFUL, its problems and its value. The study recommends continuation of USEFUL but as a one week course.

DOCUMENT LOCATION

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***This is approved on the understanding that (a) it also has the concurrence of the Executive Director-Comptroller which can be obtained informally, (b) presentations during the five-day session will be oriented almost exclusively to Agency organization and general mission and substantive intelligence coverage of the critical areas of the world with DD/P officers participating in the presentation of this substantive intelligence, and (c) there will be a de-emphasis of presentations on operational activities.**

T.H.K.

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